

on the COVER



White ibis on grass flat in St. Lucie Estuary

Checking telemetry equipment in Stormwater Treatment Area 1 West

Conducting a scientific experiment in the STA

Installing a refurbished water control structure lift gate at West Palm Beach Field Station

Assisting employees with their computer needs

District headquarters in West Palm Beach

Welcome to *WaterMatters*

As we enter into a new budget year, the timing is most appropriate to launch a new communications vehicle designed to keep citizens, businesses and interest groups – as well as our federal, tribal, state and local government partners – informed and actively involved regarding water management issues.

Our nine-member Governing Board and staff are committed to open and meaningful communication. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas on this new outreach tool.

In this first issue, we report on a number of topics including an overview of the ecosystem restoration efforts under way in southern Florida. Along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, we are charged with carrying out the Congressionally authorized plan to revitalize and protect the Everglades by capturing and increasing available clean water supplies.

While we continue to maintain our focus and emphasis on the Everglades, we also recognize that these efforts must be integrated and coordinated with the other equally critical ecosystem restoration and protection challenges throughout our 16-county jurisdiction.

In addition to our natural systems and water quality mission responsibilities, we must also provide adequate flood control and water supplies to an ever-expanding population. With a geographical area of 18,000 square miles – larger than Connecticut, Delaware and Maryland combined – and a population of more than six million (larger than most states), we encompass one of the most diverse communities in the world. That diversity is evident in both our people and in our resources.



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– HENRY DEAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To make sure that we are best positioned to address these ongoing challenges, I have organized the agency into four major areas of responsibility under the leadership of highly capable and respected deputy executive directors:

- Water Resources – ecosystem restoration, water supply, regulation, environmental monitoring and assessment, construction and engineering
- Land Resources – land acquisition and land management
- Operations and Maintenance Resources – flood control and water conveyance
- Corporate Resources – finance and administration, public information, human resources, procurement, service centers, information technology, District clerk, security and strategic planning and program evaluation

In addition, ongoing intergovernmental communication and coordination is vital to the successful implementation of our water management mandates and initiatives. In recognition of that key factor, my senior management team includes an experienced policy advisor very familiar with legislative issues.

I am highly confident that this organization is prepared to aggressively move forward with the business of managing and protecting southern Florida’s water resources.

We truly believe that *WaterMatters*. We trust that you will agree.

Our Governing Board: Giving new meaning to the word volunteer



GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS left to right: Nicolás Gutiérrez, Jr., Esq., Miami; Gerardo B. Fernandez, Redlands; Harkley R. Thornton, St. Cloud; Pamela Brooks-Thomas, Lauderhill; Henry Dean, Executive Director; Michael Collins, Islamorada; Hugh M. English, LaBelle; Trudi K. Williams, Chair, Fort Myers; Lennart E. Lindahl, Vice Chair, Palm City; and Patrick J. Gleason, Ph.D., P.G., West Palm Beach

Giving new meaning to the word volunteer – that is something that members of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District do every day.

Leading the charge to restore the Everglades and provide a safe and adequate water supply for the six million residents of southern Florida takes a tremendous amount of time and effort. Governing Board members are appointed by Florida’s Governor – and serve with no compensation – for terms that can range from one to four years. During their terms, hundreds of hours are spent working with the public and South Florida Water Management District staff members on critical water management issues.

Governing Board meetings are held at the District’s West Palm Beach headquarters two days a month, on the second Wednesday and Thursday of each month. At these meetings, discussions are held debating water-related projects and programs in the 16 counties we serve. In addition to Governing Board meetings, countless workshops and public forums are held to get an in-depth understanding of the

complex issues facing the District as well as to get input from our residents at public forums.

Six of the Governing Board members serve counties of southern Florida, from Orlando to Key West, representing a local as well as a regional perspective of issues and concerns ranging from flooding to water supply. Three Governing Board members serve at-large, representing regions of south Florida and issues of broad regional significance. All Governing Board members share a District-wide watershed perspective. That is, ensuring that each project serving our District is a benefit to all of southern Florida’s residents.

The main focus of the Governing Board members is to provide direction to District Executive Director Henry Dean. The District’s mission includes providing flood control protection and water supply protection for the residents of southern Florida and restoring and managing ecosystems that include the Kissimmee River, the Everglades and Florida Bay.

For more information, including how to contact our Governing Board members, go to www.sfwmd.gov

Leading the Way: THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



CHIP MERRIAM
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Water Resources

PAMELA MAC’KIE
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Land Resources



GEORGE HORNE
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Operations and Maintenance Resources

ALVIN B. JACKSON, JR.
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Corporate Resources



KATHY COPELAND
SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR
Legislative Affairs